Supply of defective LPG cylinders

*572. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from Tamil Nadu regarding supply of defective LPG cylinders which may lead to risky consequences;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether there is any mechanism to monitor the quality and standard of gas cylinders supplied by Indian Oil to the consumers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) Government have not received any representation from Tamil Nadu Government regarding supply of defective LPG cylinders by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies.

(c) to (e) At present, three Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), namely Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) are marketing LPG in the country.

OMCs are procuring LPG cylinders from cylinder manufacturers who are approved by the Oil Industry Technical Committee (OITC) and have valid manufacturing licences from the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and the Chief Controller of Explosives (CCOE). Strict control is exercised by BIS over the manufacturing process. LPG cylinders procured by OMCs meet the required quality standards.

LPG cylinders are manufactured under the close supervision of third party inspection agency, *viz.,* BIS, which enforces strict control over the manufacturing process. OITC also carries out surprise audit of cylinder manufacturing units to ascertain the quality standards of the cylinders. Cylinders received from distributors/transporters at the bottling plants are mandatorily checked for quality and genuineness to avoid the entry of fake and outdated cylinders in circulation. On detection, sub-standard/spurious cylinders are confiscated and thereafter deshaped/crushed to prevent their re-circulation.

Apart from the legal action which could be taken against any supplier of spurious LPG equipment, in case any distributor is found in possession of spurious equipment or inducts such equipment in the distribution system, Marketing Discipline-Guidelines provide, *inter-alia,* for confiscation of equipment, imposition of fine and recovery at penal rates for the first and second offences and termination of distributorship in the event of a third offence.

Self Help Groups benefited by micro finance scheme

*573. SHRI S.ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Self Help Groups benefited by the micro finance scheme so far, state-wise;

(b) the number of families covered by the scheme so far, state-wise;

(c) the percentage of BPL families covered by the scheme, state-wise;

(d) whether the central Government proposed to cover all the BPL and marginally, above BPL families by micro finance scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof including the time frame set for the purpose and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) As on 31st March 2007, around 27.11 lakh Self Help Groups (SHGs) (provisional figures) have benefited from the NABARD facilitated SHG Bank Linkage Programme. These groups have covered approximately 379.54 lakh families. State-wise details are given in Statement-I *(See* below).

(c) to (e) Unlike the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojna (SGSY) of the Ministry of Rural Development, the SHG-Bank Linkage Programme of NABARD neither extends subsidy linked credit nor restricts membership of the group to persons Below Poverty Line. As such, no data on coverage of BPL families is available for this programme. However, the State-wise details of BPL families covered under SGSY is given in Statement-ll (See below).

Under NABARD facilitated SHG-Bank Linkage Programme, by the end of Xlth Five Year Plan (2011-12), the cumulative number of SHGs to be credit linked with banks is projected at 40 lakhs covering 5.6 crore families. Under the SGSY Scheme the target is to bring in atleast one member of the identified BPL families within the fold of Self Help Group during the Xlth Plan (2007-2012).